



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning Buildings, and  
Inmates, within the Citie of London, and  
Confines of the same.



Mongst other His Maiesties important cares and affaires of State, and high consequence, since His accesse to the Crowne, It hath pleased His Maiestie, to take into His Princely consideration the present estate of the Citie of London, as being the Kings Chamber, the Seate Imperiall of this Kingdom, and renowned ouer all the parts of the Christian world; In respect whereof, and of the vsuall residence of His Maiesties Court so neere it, with the confluence of forreigne Ambassadors, and Strangers of great State and eminencie thither; His Maiestie is most graciously carefull, to neglect no meanes of lawfull policie to prouide for the continuance and increase of the Honour, Liberty, health, & Safety of the same, by remoouing and preventing such offensive Lets, & Impediments, as haue heretofore giuen, or hereafter may giue hinderance thereunto: And calling to remembrance what vigilant care His most Royall Father, King Iames, of blessed memory, tooke in his life time to pursue the good course which the most excellent Princeesse, Queene Elizabeth, had in her time begun, concerning Inmates, and buildings within the said Citie, and Confines thereof, by the well ordering of which two particulars onely, many great Inconueniences, and Preiudices to the honour and good of the Citie, might bee remooued and auoyded; His Maiestie, vpon deliberate aduice with his Priny Counsell, and perusal of what hath been done in like case in the time of his most Royall Progenitors, and vpon what grounds and reasons, hath thought good to set downe by this one Proclamation, certaine distinct and plaine Orders, for the furtherance, and aduancement of His most gracious intention, concerning the Premisses in these Articles following.

**F**irst, His Maiestie doth strictly charge and command, that no dwelling Houses, Stables, Shops, Stalles, or any other building whatsoever, be from hencefoorth erected, or attempted to be erected, within the Citie of London, or the Suburbs thereof, or within the distance of two miles, to be taken from any gate of the said Citie, or from His Maiesties Palace at Westminster, except it be vpon the foundation of a former dwelling house, or such like Building: And if any such Building, contrary to this Prohibition, shall hereafter happen to bee begun, that the



same, he forthwith stayed from farther proceeding, by the Alderman of the Ward, or by two of the next Justices of Peace, and aswell such Builder as the Workemen Employed therein, committed to prison, until they shall enter into sufficient bond, either to demolish, and pull downe that which is built, or to answer their contempt in his Majesties high Court of Starre-Chamber, or before the Lords of the Privy Councell, at the Councell-board: And the Constable of the Parish or place, shall from time to time, in the first beginning of any such worke or Building, give notice to the Alderman of the Ward, or two next Justices of Peace, of any such offence, and of the offenders therein, that this Proclamation may be speedily, and freshly put in execution.

All Houses, Sheddies, Shoppes, and other buildings, which have been builded or set up within the limits aforesaid, at any time since the thirteenth yeere of the late King James, of blessed memory, contrary to any Proclamation published in his late Majesties time, shalbe forthwith pulled downe, as is before directed touching other Buildings, to bee stayed or pulled downe; And no Cellars erected within the time last mentioned, to be vled for Lodgings or Victualing houses, but the occupiers thereof to be suppressed, and so to be kept by the Justices of Peace.

That no person or persons do erect, reedifie, or set up any House or building in London, or within the distance of three miles from any the gates of the said Citie of London, or from his Majesties Palace at Westminster, vnlesse hee doe make all the better Walles of the same of Bricke, or Bricke and Stone: And that all Houses and Buildings to be erected within the said Citie, or in, or adioyning to any open Streete of any Towne or Village out of the said Citie, within the limits of three miles aforesaid, shall be built according to the forme and proportion hereafter in these presents expressed (viz.) every whole Story of, and in such Houses and Buildings, and all and every the Roomes of such whole Story, shall be of the height of Tenne foote of Allize, at the least, and every halfe Story, of and in such houses and buildings, shall be of the height of seven foote and a halfe, at the least; And that the forefront, and all outward, and diuision Walles, betwixt house and house, and the Jambs, heads, and soyles of the Windowes, shalbe of Bricke, or of Bricke and Stone, and the Windowes (beeing of timber) not to be put in, until the Jambs and heads aforesaid bee finished, and beare of themselves.

And if the said buildings doe not exceed two Stories in height, then the Walles thereof shall be of the thickest of one bricke, and halfe a bricke length, according to the assize of bricke hereunder mentioned, from the ground vnto the vppermost part of the said Walles; And where the building shalbe of the height of three Stories, the Walles of the first Story shalbe of the thickest of two bricke length, and from thence vnto the vppermost part of the wall, of the thickest of one bricke and halfe a bricke length, and so proportionably, if there shall be more Stories.

That in building of the sayd houses, there shall be no Jutties, or Jutting, or Cant Windowes, either vpon timber Joists, or other wise, but the Walles to goe direct and straight vpwards, and at the setting off, a Water Table to bee made; Also the Lights of the Windowes of every whole Story, to bee of more height then bredth, to the end the Roomes may receiue ayre for health, and there may bee sufficient peeres of bricke, not lesse then halfe the bredth of the Windowes betweene them for strength; And likewise the Windowes of every halfe Story to bee made square every way, or neere thereabouts.

That all Shops, and Street-doores, bee made with Pillasters of stone or bricke, to bee in breadth fiftene inches, at the least, and as thicke as the wall of the Story, and the heads of the Shop Windowes cut in wedges, with Arches ouer them, to sustaine the wall aboue; And that none doe raise the first floore to gaine height in their Cellars, so as they are thereby forced to make steppes into the streete.

And, for the better encouragement of his Majesties louing Subiects in their buildings, according to the direction of this Proclamation, his Majestie hath thought fit, by the aduise aforesaid, to set downe these Orders following, concerning the true making, and rating of the price of Bricke, which is one of the principall Materials, requisite for the said buildings, (Viz.)

That the earth, whereof the Bricke shall bee made, bee good and fit for that purpose: The first digging thereof to bee betweene the Feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel, and S. Thomas the Apostle; and the second digging, casting, or turning up of the sayd earth, to be at, or before the last day of February, then following: And that no person whatsoever, doe presume to digge, or make any Bricke, in any place within one mile of the gates of the said Citie of London, or within one mile of his Majesties Palace of Westminster.



That the said Earth be sufficiently and well wrought and tempered before it be moulded; And that the Bricke-makers cause no Earth to be moulded for Bricke, but onely betweene the Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgine Mary, and the last day of August yeerely, and at no other time or season of the yeere.

That in the moulding of the said Bricks, the moulds be thoroughly and well filled, and not set in the moulds, in the laying downe; And that they be sufficiently and well dried before they be put into the Kilne, and then carefully and thoroughly burned; So as for the assize, every Bricke being burned, containe in length, nine inches, in breadth, foure inches one quarter and halfe a quarter of an inch, and in thickenesse, two inches and one quarter of an inch.

That the price of Bricks (being thus wrought and made in goodnesse, size, and maner, as aforesaid) shall not exceede the rate of eight shillings the thousand at the Kilne: And if any excessive rate be demanded for the carriage of the said Bricks, from the Kilne, to the place where they shall be to be sold, the Commissioners for Buildings to moderate the same, according to equitie, in their good discretions; And that no person or persons shall make, or cause to be made within five miles of any the gates of the City of London, nor bring by water or land, or utter, sell, or put to sale within the said City, or any place or places within five miles thereof, as aforesaid, any Bricks made or wrought contrary to the directions aforesaid, nor sell the same at any higher rate, then is before mentioned.

That no person or persons within the said City of London, or within two miles from any the gates thereof, or from his Majesties Palace at Westminster, shall in defrauding the intent of this Proclamation, support or strengthen any Buildings so ruinous and olde, as are unfit to be continued, by digging of Cellars, and bringing up new Bricke Wallles, by erecting new Chimneys and Staire cases, by placing pieces of Timber, by setting on new roofes or rafters, and thrusting out of dormers, knitting and fastening together the said new additions unto the old Timber, by barres and crampes of Iron, or other like devices, vnlesse he or they shall be thereunto licenced and allowed by his Majesties Commissioners for Buildings.

That no person or persons within the limits last aforesaid, doe at any time or times hereafter presume or attempt to erect, couer, ouerlay or inclose any Houels, or other Sheds of Timber, with Reeds, Faggots, Hay, Straw, Boards, or other materials, or doe raise up any Wall, Pale, or Banke of Earth, to which Sheds may be added, or doe repaire or new make into the streets, any maner of Bulkes, Stalles, Windowes, Doores, or other offensive issues, or doe alter or change the vse of any dwelling House, or other Building, to any more noysome, or offensive vse, end or purpose, then the same was imploied before the time of the demolishing or altering the same, without the speciall Licence and Allowance of the said Commissioners for Buildings.

And for that the diuiding of Houses into severall Tenements and habitations, and the letting part of Houses and Chambers to Inmates, and Under-sitters, is no lesse inconuenient then excessive Buildings, as well in regard of surcharge of people, especially of the worse sort, and for breeding and spreading of Infection, as otherwise, his Majesty hath also by the aduice aforesaid, commanded these Articles following to be duely obserued:

That no person or persons within the City of London, or two miles from any the gates thereof, doe diuide any dwelling House by Lease, sufferance, or other wise, into, or for any more Tenements or dwellings, then are at this present, or haue been heretofore sold within the same, by the space of thirtie yeeres last past.

That no person doe hereafter receiue into any House, any Inmates or Under-sitters, or any more families then one.

That no person or persons, who shall erect a new House vpon, or within the Precincts of an olde Foundation, shall diuide the same into more Tenements, or severall dwellings, then were sold in the said former Houses.

By the due obseruation of which severall Articles, as the vniformitie of the Buildings will bring much honour to the City, and grace and ornament both to the Streets thereof, and to the neighbour Townes; So the Building with Bricke or Stone will be more durable and more safe from the danger and casualties of fire, and withall, the reducing of all sorts of Houses to this order, and the present remoouing of Inmates and Under-sitters, according to this Direction, will in short time discontinue, and take away the many Cottages, Sheds, and base places of ha-



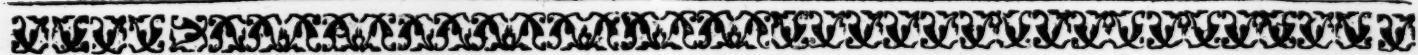
bitation in by-lanes and backe-streets, whereby the City, Suburbs, and Confines will become more sutable, and lesse subiect to that danger of Sickenesse and Infection, which by the unwholesome pesterling of multitudes of poore people together, is now threatned against the same.

And therefore His Maiesty, vpon mature and deliberate consideration taken of the premisses, Doeth straitly charge and command, all and euery person or persons of whatsoeuer degree, qualitie, or condition hee or they be, That hee, they, and euery of them, doe well and truly obserue and keepe all and singuler the Articles befoze specified, in all things to them respectiuevely belonging, as they will auoid his Maiesties high displeasure, and such further penalties and punishments, as their contempts and neglects herein shall demerit, and by his Maiesties Prerogative Royall, or otherwise, may be inflicted vpon them.

And because the life of all good Constitutions and orders, standeth in the quicke and due execution of them, as His Maiesty, out of his further Princely care and desire to haue this good worke prosper and proceed according to his Maiesties most gracious intention, hath chosen and appointed certaine of the Lords of His Pruiue Councell, and others, Gentlemen of qualitie, to be His Commissioners, to take speciall care of the same, and to see this His Royall pleasure, so much concerning the publique good, to be duely executed and performed; So his expresse charge and commandement is, aswell to the said Commissioners, as to the Lord Maior, Recorder, and Aldermen of the said City of London, and all Iustices of Peace within the Countie of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surrey, and all High Constables, petty Constables, Headboroughes, and other Officers, to whom it may appertaine, That they and euery of them in their seuerall places and offices, respectiuevely, doe diligently and duely attend to giue their vttermost aide, helpe, and assistance, according to their duties concerning the premisses: And where they, or any of them shall finde any offence to be committed against any Branch or Article of this Proclamation, to make certificate thereof to the Lords of Our Pruiue Councell, whom wee require to vse all fitting care, prouidence and endeauour, to correct and refozme the same, or else to giue speedy notice thereof in writing, to Our Attourney generall, whom wee doe hereby command and authorize, to prosecute and proceed against all, and euery the offender and offenders aforesaid, in the said Court of Star-chamber, That by the Sentence of that high and honourable Court, they may be better taught to know, and to doe their duties, and both themselves and others by their example, be brought to that conformitie, which His Maiestie expecteth and requireth.

Giuen at the Court at White-Hall, the second day of May, in the first yeere of His Maiesties Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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M. D. C. X X V.